Penabaz Says, Winners, Loser Face Huge Tasks

By MAURICE LABELLE

President **Richard Nixon,** the winner, and the Dade GOP, the losers, both face monumental tasks in the wake of the Nov. 5 election, Dr. **Fernando Penabaz** told the Riviera Republican Women's Club in an election "post mortem."

Drawing an analogy from a wake, the editor of Insight on the News and State GOP leader, said that Dade Republicans, who failed to take a single seat, are like the tragedy-struck family, rejoicing that the head of the family survived.

While local Republicans wasted some of their efforts, he said, the main obstacle in the way to victory in Dade County is the liberal-Democratic control of the news media which makes it impossible to communicate with the masses effectively.

The same situation exists generally nationwide, Dr. Penabaz said.

Of Nixon's victory he said: "It's one of the greatest victories that we could have obtained . . ."

Of the local defeat he said: "We have built something where there was absolutely nothing."

Six years ago, he pointed out, the GOP ran only token opposition in some races and were astonished at any support.

Today, he said, the GOP commands 40 per cent of the electorate.

Republicans, he said, fooled themselves into thinking that by the change in voting boundaries which eliminated Miami Beach that their candidate would have a better chance, or that the Jewish people would vote for a Jewish Republican over Rep. **Claude Pepper,** or that a Negro Republican would fare better than a white candidate.

The election revealed, Dr. Penabaz said, that Dade Democrats did not care whether they were white, black or green, so long as they were Democrats.

He predicted that many members of minority groups who voted against the winning national ticket would now align themselves with the new power structure.

Locally, he said, Republicans have not identified themselves with the government in power.

Local candidates failed to act in concert and ran their campaigns independently, raised money separately, were not cognizant of what fellow candidates were doing, and often were not familiar with certain key issues, Penabaz said.